

ALL NEW
OUR FIGHTING FORCES IN ACTION



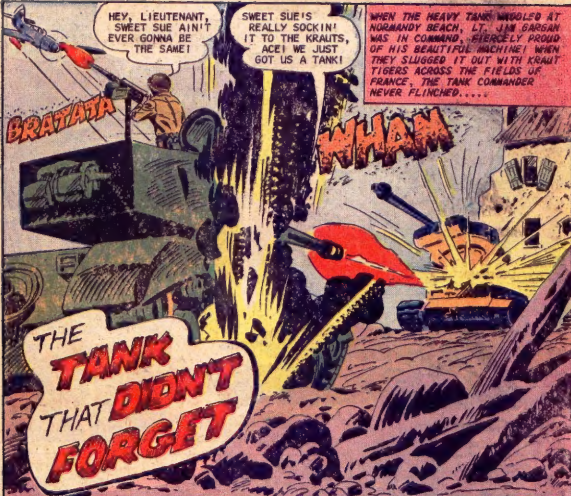
ATTACK

IN THE MIDST OF THE
KILLING SGT. HILYARD
SOUGHT TO BRING A LIFE
INTO THE WORLD...

**"Where's the
War?"**

THEY'RE ALL **DEAD**
-- AND I'M GONNA
COOK IN THIS
TINCAN IF I DON'T
GET OUT!





HEY, LIEUTENANT,
SWEET SUE AIN'T
EVER GONNA BE
THE SAME!

SWEET SUE'S
REALLY SOCKIN'
IT TO THE KRAUTS,
ACE! WE JUST
GOT US A TANK!

WHEN THE HEAVY TANK WADDLED AT
NORMANDY BEACH, LT. JIM GARGAN
WAS IN COMMAND, FIERCELY PROUD
OF HIS BEAUTIFUL MACHINE! WHEN
THEY SLUGGED IT OUT WITH KRAUT
TIGERS ACROSS THE FIELDS OF
FRANCE, THE TANK COMMANDER
NEVER FLINCHED....

BRATATA

WHAM

THE
**TANK
THAT DIDN'T
FORGET**



THAT'S IT, LIEUTENANT!
AIN'T NOBODY LEFT
BUT US CHICKENS!

YEAH, OKAY, ACE...START HER UP...
WE'LL FIND A QUIET PLACE...

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THE LIEUTENANT REALLY TAKES CARE OF HIS TANK!

SWEET SUE



THE REST OF US GOT CHICKS BACK HOME, SKIPPER, BUT YOU DON'T! SWEET SUE'S YOUR TRUE LOVE, HUNT

YEAH... SWEET SUE AND I ARE GOING STEADY, ACE!

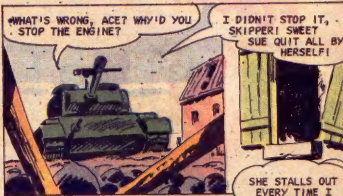


LT. GARGAN COULD GET A LOT OUT OF HIS BE-LOVED TANK... SHE NEVER QUIT ON HIM IN BATTLE...

THAT'S STE. HELENE AHEAD... THE THIRD ARMORED WENT THROUGH YESTERDAY... IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH!



EIN AMERIKANER IS COMING INTO OUR TRAP... WAIT UNTIL HE IS CLOSER... THEN DESTROY HIM!



WHAT'S WRONG, ACE? WHY'D YOU STOP THE ENGINE?

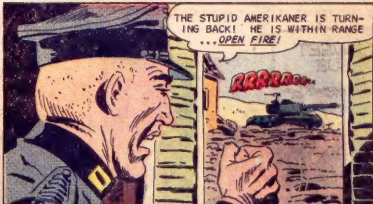
I DIDN'T STOP IT, SKIPPER! SWEET SUE QUIT ALL BY HERSELF!



SHE STALLS OUT EVERY TIME I HEAD FOR THE VILLAGE! SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO GO THERE!

LT. GARGAN SCANNED THE VILLAGE THROUGH HIS GLASSES! IT WAS QUIET... THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF GERMANS THERE... BUT HE DIDN'T SEE ANY BRITISH TROOPS MOVING AROUND EITHER! AND THERE WEREN'T ANY CIVILIANS...

SEE IF SWEET SUE WILL TAKE US AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE, ARKIE!



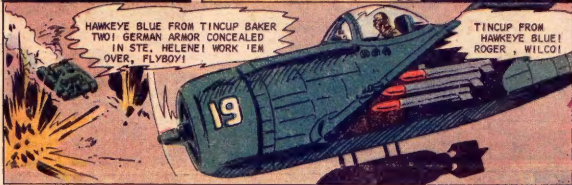
THE STUPID AMERIKANER IS TURNING BACK! HE IS WITHIN RANGE... OPEN FIRE!

WE'RE UNDER FIRE FROM THE TOWN... IT WAS A TRAP... AND SWEET SUE KNEW IT!

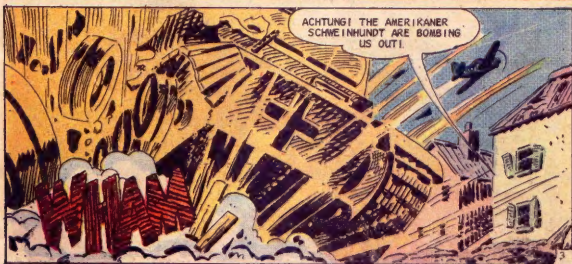


HAWKEYE BLUE FROM TINCUP BAKER TWO! GERMAN ARMOR CONCEALED IN STE. HELENE! WORK 'EM OVER, FLYBOY!

TINCUP FROM HAWKEYE BLUE! ROGER, WILCO!

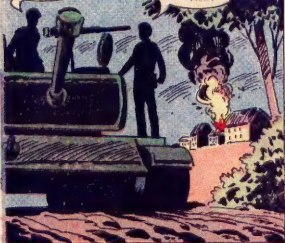


ACHTUNG! THE AMERIKANER SCHWEINHUNDT ARE BOMBING US OUT!



SWEET SUE SAVES
US EVERY TIME,
SKIPPER!

I ALWAYS SAID, IF YOU
TREAT A LADY RIGHT,
SHE'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU.
ACE!



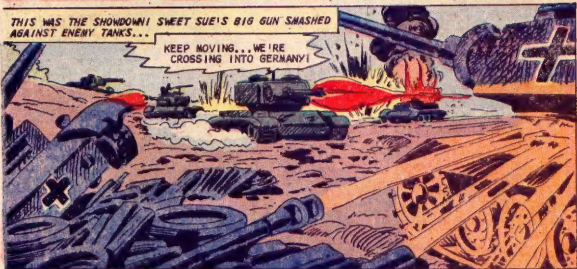
THEY WERE PART OF GENERAL GEORGE PATTON'S
THIRD ARMY...

GO GET 'EM!

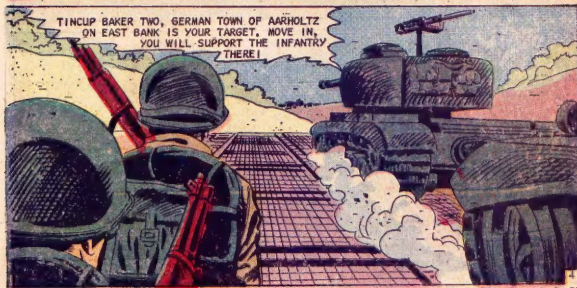


THIS WAS THE SHOWDOWN! SWEET SUE'S BIG GUN SMASHED
AGAINST ENEMY TANKS...

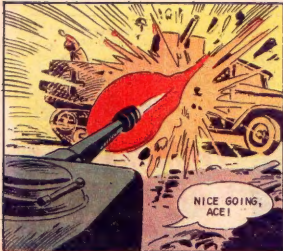
KEEP MOVING...WE'RE
CROSSING INTO GERMANY!



TINCUP BAKER TWO, GERMAN TOWN OF AARHOLTZ
ON EAST BANK IS YOUR TARGET. MOVE IN,
YOU WILL SUPPORT THE INFANTRY
THERE!



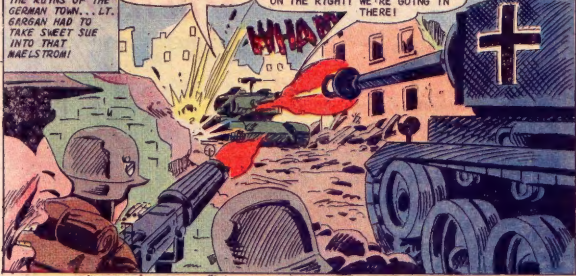
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BUT THERE WERE INFANTRYMEN IN THE RUINS OF THE GERMAN TOWN...LT. GARGAN HAD TO TAKE SWEET SUE INTO THAT MAELSTROM!

THEY'RE REALLY ZINGIN' US, SKIPPER!

WE'RE IN THE OPEN, ACE! ARKIE... HEAD FOR THE BIG BUILDING ON THE RIGHT! WE'RE GOING IN THERE!



THEN, THE KRAUT TANK COLUMN HELD IN RESERVE OUTSIDE OF TOWN APPEARED!

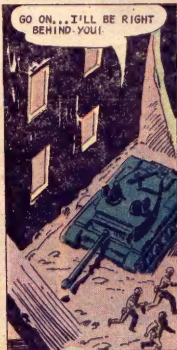
GOOD GOSH, SKIPPER! IF SWEET SUE WAS OUT THERE NOW, SHE'D GET CLOBBERED!



TIME TO SKEDADDLE, KIDDIES! BAIL OUT... WE'RE LEAVING SWEET SUE HERE AWHILE...THE KRAUTS ARE GOING TO TAKE THE TOWN!



GO ON...I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



THAT WAS IT! SWEET SUE LAID THERE UNNOTICED WHILE THE TIDES OF BATTLE SWIRLED THROUGH AARHOLTZ... LT. GARGAN WAS BELIEVED DEAD! A DAY LATER, ARKIE AND ACE RETURNED...

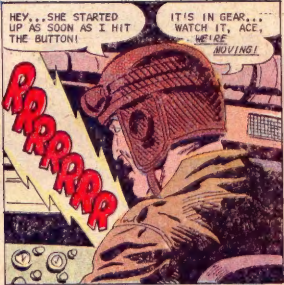
SHE TOOK A COUPLE MORE HITS, ACE!



YEAH, SHE'S DONE FOR...LIKE THE SKIPPER'S DONE FOR... THEY WERE A GREAT TEAM, SWEET SUE AND JIM GARGAN!

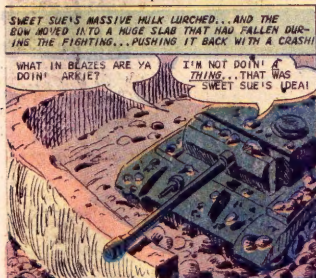


I WONDER
IF SHE'LL
STILL
RUN...



HEY...SHE STARTED
UP AS SOON AS I HIT
THE BUTTON!

IT'S IN GEAR...
WATCH IT, ACE,
WE'RE
MOVING!



SWEET SUE'S MASSIVE HULK LURCHED...AND THE
BOW MOVED INTO A HUGE SLAB THAT HAD FALLEN DURING
THE FIGHTING...PUSHING IT BACK WITH A CRASH!

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YA
DOIN' ARKIE?

I'M NOT DOIN' A
THING...THAT WAS
SWEET SUE'S IDEA!



ARKIE...LOOK! IT'S
THE SKIPPER!

GET A MEDIC,
ACE! HURRY!



I KNEW YOU'D
COME BACK,
ACE!

IT WASN'T ME, SKIPPER...SWEET SUE FOUND
YOU...SHE DIDN'T FORGET WHERE YOU WERE!

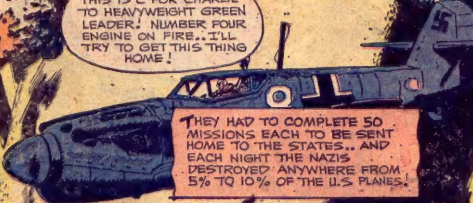
END.

IN 1943, THE U.S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE WAS FLYING NIGHTLY RAIDS AGAINST NAZI GERMANY...EACH NIGHT PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN BY THE 88MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AROUND THE GERMAN CITIES...SEARCH-LIGHTS STABBED THE NIGHT SKIES AND LIT THEM UP LIKE FLUTTERING MOTHS FOR THE MESSERSCHMITT AND FOCKE-WULF FIGHTERS.... AND THE MEN WHO FLEW THE B-24 LIBERATORS IN THE 14TH HEAVY BOMBARDMENT GROUP KNEW THE ODDS AGAINST ANY OF THEM SURVIVING THIS GRIM BATTLE!

THE 50TH MISSION



THIS IS C FOR CHARLIE TO HEAVYWEIGHT GREEN LEADER! NUMBER FOUR ENGINE ON FIRE..I'LL TRY TO GET THIS THING HOME!



THEY HAD TO COMPLETE 50 MISSIONS EACH TO BE SENT HOME TO THE STATES.. AND EACH NIGHT THE NAZIS DESTROYED ANYWHERE FROM 5% TO 10% OF THE U.S. PLANES!

BRAGAN'S DEAD, SKIPPER...I GOT A
SLUG IN MY LEG!

THE FIRE IN NUMBER FOUR
IS WORSE, SKIPPER!

IT'LL REACH A TANK,
SIR! IT'S GOING TO
EXPLODE!

MAYBE NOT...
MAYBE WE CAN
BLOW IT OUT!

THE FIRE'S
LEAVING,
SIR!



THE RUGGED CONSOLIDATED BOMBER WAS VIBRATING BADLY AS CAPT. MARTY HOLMAN FOUGHT THE CONTROLS AND SLOWLY BROUGHT THE BOMBER OUT OF THE STEEP SIDE SLIP!

I THOUGHT WE HAD IT, SIR..THAT'S AS HAIRY AS I'VE EVER WANT TO SEE IT GET...

THIS WAS YOUR SECOND MISSION, TOM..IT'S MY 47TH! I'VE HAD IT WORSE... ONE NIGHT I CAME BACK WITH FOUR DEAD MEN ABOARD...

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU, CAPTAIN HOLMAN?

YOU CAN'T BROOD ABOUT THOSE THINGS! I DON'T THINK ABOUT THE BAD TIMES...

L.T. TOM BURR LISTENED AND BELIEVED..HE'D NEVER KNOW HOW MANY NIGHTS THE TOUGH TALKING VETERAN SCREAMED IN HIS SLEEP!

NOW..IF WE CAN FIND ENGLAND..I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A BRITISH WREN I KNOW...



NEXT MORNING
IN ENGLAND, LT.
TOM BURR WENT
TO THE REPAIR
DEPOT WHERE
'C FOR CHARLIE'
WAS ALREADY
BEING FITTED
WITH A NEW
ENGINE...

I THOUGHT WE'D BE
GROUNDED FOR AT
LEAST A WEEK!

NO WAY! WE'VE
GOT TO GET BACK
IN ACTION!

WELL... I
AM!

BUT, WHY, SIRE
THAT WAS PLENTY
HAIRY LAST NIGHT
I'M IN NO HURRY
TO...

THEN I CAN
SLEEP!

I WANT TO GET IN THOSE
THREE MORE MISSIONS..
THEN I CAN BEGIN LIVING
LIKE A HUMAN BEING
AGAIN!

LT. BURR IDOLIZED
CAPT. HOLMAN.. LIKE
THE REST OF THE
CREW.. HE KNEW HE
WAS ALIVE BECAUSE
OF THE CAPTAIN'S
COOLNESS!

YOUR CAPTAIN IS
A TIRED MAN, TOM!
WATCH HIM.. HE'S
BEEN UNDER GREAT
STRAIN FOR A LONG
TIME!

HE'S OKAY,
POLLY.. HE'S
FINE!

CAPT. HOLMAN WAS REALLY SWEATING OUT THE 50TH MISSION... TRYING DESPERATELY TO CONTROL HIS NERVES!

JUST THREE MORE MISSIONS... AND THE ONE TOMORROW AGAINST DUSSELDORF SHOULD BE A MILK RUN...

LT. BURR SPENT HIS TIME AROUND 'C-FOR CHARLIE' THE NEXT DAY.. HE WANTED TO BE SURE THE BATTERED LIBERATOR WAS O.K.!

SHE WON'T WIN ANY BEAUTY CONTESTS, BUT SHE'LL GET YOU TO DUSSELDORF AND BACK!

I'M PLUNKETT, LIEUTENANT... YOUR NEW WAIST GUNNER!

CHECK YOUR WEAPON! BE ON THE FLIGHT LINE EARLY!

DUSK CAME LATE TO ENGLAND IN JUNE.. WHEN THE 14TH HEAVY BOMBARDMENT GROUP STARTED GETTING AIRBORNE IT WAS JUST TURNING DARK!

ROOOM



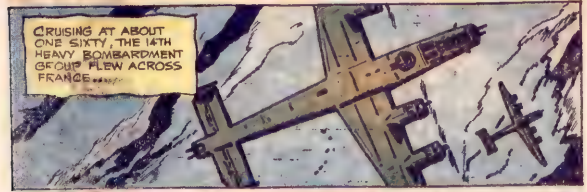
WATCH IT, SKIPPER!

TAKE OVER, TOM!

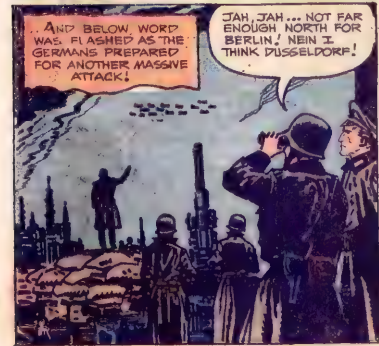


W- WHAT'S WRONG, SIR?

I..I'VE GOT THE SHAKES..I'LL DRINK SOME COFFEE.. BE OKAY IN A FEW MINUTES...



CRUISING AT ABOUT ONE SIXTY, THE 14TH HEAVY BOMBARDMENT GROUP FLEW ACROSS FRANCE...



..AND BELOW WORD WAS FLASHED AS THE GERMANS PREPARED FOR ANOTHER MASSIVE ATTACK!

JAH, JAH... NOT FAR ENOUGH NORTH FOR BERLIN! NEIN I THINK DÜSSELDORF!



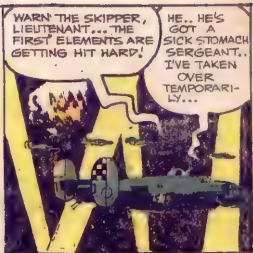
IT'S A GOOD THING THIS IS A MILK RUN.. WE'LL MAKE A QUICK HIT AND BE OUT OF GERMANY BEFORE THE KRAUTS KNOW WE'RE HERE!

THE NAZI AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
ACTIVATED THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS
..FROM COLOGNE, SWARMS OF
MESSERSCHMITTS HURTTLED INTO
THE AIR...



WARN THE SKIPPER,
LIEUTENANT... THE
FIRST ELEMENTS ARE
GETTING HIT HARD!

HE.. HE'S
GOT A
SICK STOMACH
SERGEANT..
I'VE TAKEN
OVER
TEMPORARI-
LY...



JINK, LIEUTENANT...
THEY'RE CLOSING IN!



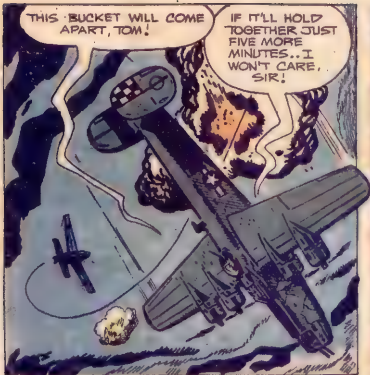
IF THAT KID DOESN'T TEAR THE
WINGS OFF.. HE'LL GET US OUTTA
HERE!



BOMBS
AWAY,
SKIPPER!

HANG IN, YOU
GUYS.. WE'RE
GOING HOME!





THIS 'BUCKET WILL COME APART, TOM!

IF IT'LL HOLD TOGETHER JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES... I WON'T CARE, SIR!



HOW DO YOU FEEL, CAPTAIN?

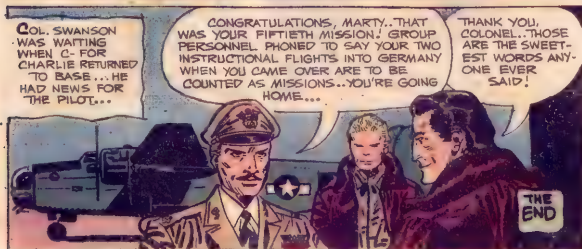


BETTER... I'M NOT SHAKING NOW... I SUPPOSE BECAUSE WE'RE STILL ALIVE AND SAFE!



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET THROUGH TWO MORE MISSIONS! I ALMOST PASSED OUT, DIDN'T I?

YOU'LL BE OKAY, SKIPPER!



COL. SWANSON WAS WAITING WHEN C- FOR CHARLIE RETURNED TO BASE... HE HAD NEWS FOR THE PILOT...

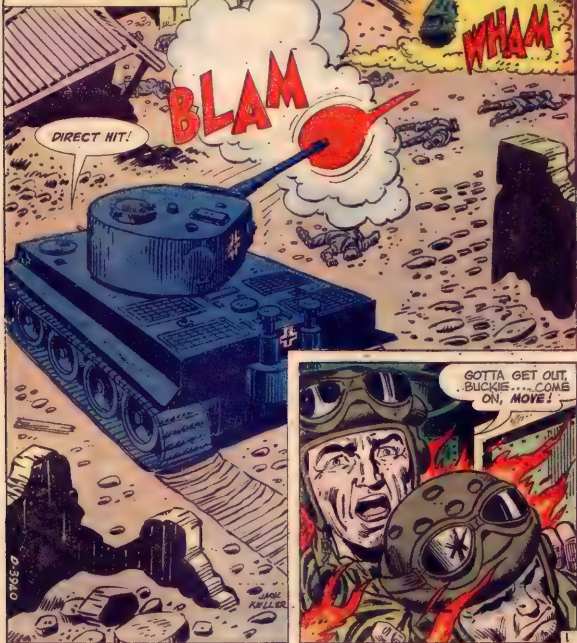
CONGRATULATIONS, MARTY... THAT WAS YOUR FIFTIETH MISSION! GROUP PERSONNEL PHONED TO SAY YOUR TWO INSTRUCTIONAL FLIGHTS INTO GERMANY WHEN YOU CAME OVER ARE TO BE COUNTED AS MISSIONS... YOU'RE GOING HOME...

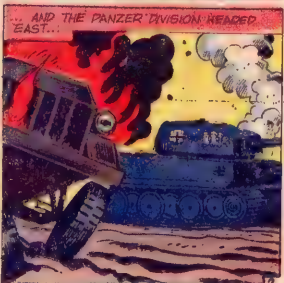
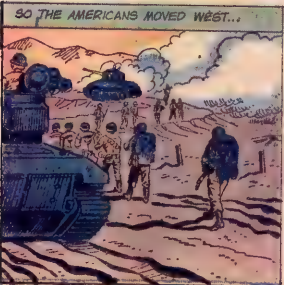
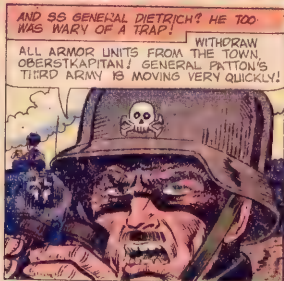
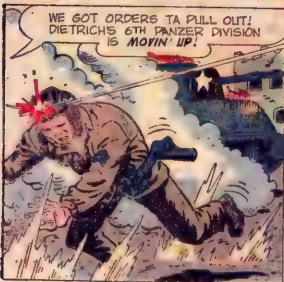
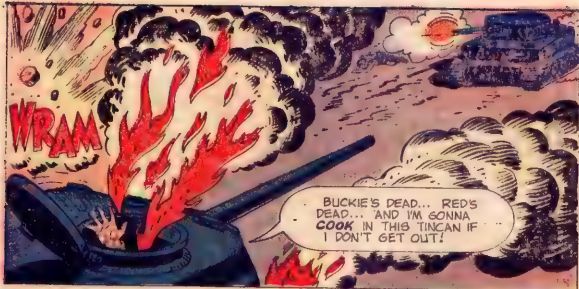
THANK YOU, COLONEL... THOSE ARE THE SWEETEST WORDS ANYONE EVER SAID!

THE END

WHERE'S THE WAR?

IT WAS JANUARY, 1945, AND SS GENERAL DIETRICH'S 6TH PANZER ARMY HAD BEEN BATTERED BACK BY - AMERICAN ARMORED FORCES... BACK ACROSS THE RHINE, INTO THE HEARTLAND OF GERMANY! SGT. OWEN HILYARD, OF GENERAL PATTON'S VAUNTED THIRD ARMY, HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ARMORED INFANTRY THAT SWEEPED INTO A SMALL GERMAN TOWN WEST OF REMAGEN... RIGHT INTO A 6TH PANZER ARMY AMBUSH!





IT WAS DAMP AND BITTERLY COLD... SILENCE BROODED IN THE ABANDONED TOWN... BUT SGT. OWEN HILYARD WAS UNAWARE!



MY HEAD...



HANDS HURT... BURNED THEM INSIDE THE TANK...

NOT TOO BAD... MY HEAD HURTS... I'M BLEEDING!



WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?



MY OUTFIT PULLED OUT... SO DID THE KRAUTS!



GOTT IN HIMMEL...

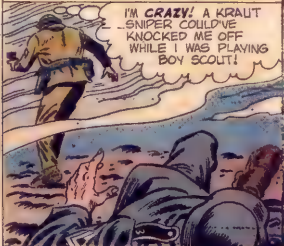
KRAUT!



YOU'RE BAD OFF, FRITZ... I GOT SOME
SULFA POWDER AND A BATTLE DRESS-
ING... PLUS A COUPLE PAIN PILLS!
BEST I CAN DO!



IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME SGT. HIL-
YARD HAD AIDED A WOUNDED ENEMY..



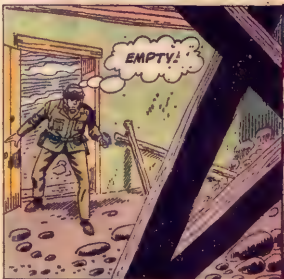
I'M **CRAZY!** A KRAUT
SNIPER COULD'VE
KNOCKED ME OFF
WHILE I WAS PLAYING
BOY SCOUT!

GOTTA HOLE UP... SWEAT THIS OUT...
MAYBE HAVE SOME POWDERED COFFEE
... FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO!...



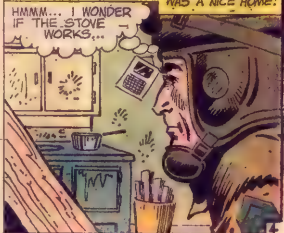
CAN'T **HEAR**
ANYTHING...

EMPTY!



THE G.I. LOOKED AT THE RUBBLE...
HE THOUGHT THAT ONCE, BEFORE A NUT-
NAMED HITLER STARTED HIS WAR, THIS
WAS A NICE HOME!

HMMM... I WONDER
IF THE STOVE
WORKS...



THE PENTAGON SAYS THIS IS DELICIOUS SOUP MIX... I'VE GOT CRACKERS AND CHEESE IN THE K RATIONS ... RIGHT NOW, I'D EAT A SHOE!



MAYBE THEY'RE NOT AS STUPID IN THE PENTAGON AS I THOUGHT!



AAAAAAHHHH!



DO NOT SHOOT, SOLDIER... I AM ONLY A WOMAN!

I CAN SEE THAT, LADY!



I AM ILL... IS THAT SOUP?

THE PENTAGON SAYS IT IS LADY... YOU WANT SOME?



EVERYONE WAS AFRAID TO STAY AFTER THE FIGHTING STARTED! THEY LEFT, BUT... I CANNOT WALK... THE BABY WILL COME SOON!

HOLY COW!



MMFF! THE
PAINS... THE
BABY WILL
BE BORN
SOON!

NO! YOU
CAN'T...
YOU'VE
GOTTA HAVE
A DOCTOR...
OR ANOTHER
WOMAN... LIKE
A MIDWIFE!

YOU WAIT HERE...
I'LL GO FIND
SOMEBODY!

THERE MUST BE **SOME-
ONE** LEFT IN TOWN...
SOMEONE SHE **KNOWS!**



YOU SPEAK
ENGLISH,
FRITZ?

NEIN...

I'LL BE BACK, BUDDY! I'LL
GET YOU OUT OF THE
MUD... BUT FIRST I'VE
GOT TO FIND SOMEONE
TO LOOK AFTER AN
EXPECTANT MOTHER!

I GOTTA BE A **NUT**... IF
I GET CREAMED BY A
TRIGGER-HAPPY KRAUT
I DESERVE IT!



SGT. HILYARD WAS SCARED... THE TOTAL SILENCE... THE DENSE, COLD FOG... AND FAR AWAY THE RUMBLE OF GUNS REMINDED HIM A WAR WAS STILL GOING ON!

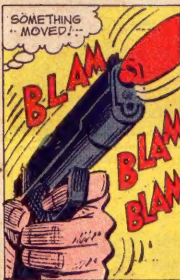
I'VE GOTTA FIND SOMEONE SOON... THAT GERMAN WOMAN IS GOING TO HAVE THAT BABY ANY MINUTE!



FUNNY SMELL...
KINDA FAMILIAR...



SOMETHING
MOVED!...



THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHIN...
GUESS I'M
JUST JUMPY!



THIS IS WHERE
I LEFT THE
WOUNDED KRAUT...
HE COULDN'T
MOVE... SOME-
BODY TOOK
HIM AWAY!



THERE WAS A PAPER FROM THE FIELD
DRESSING HE'D USED... AND ANOTHER
WRAPPING... THIS ONE WAS A GERMAN
DRESSING!

A GERMAN MEDIC... MAY-
BE EVEN A DOCTOR...
WAS HERE!

I'VE GOTTA
FIND HIM!



HE PICKED HIM UP... HE
CARRIED HIM... THERE
ARE HIS **TRACKS** IN THE
MUD!



THROUGH THE FOG, HE
HEARD THE PREGNANT
GIRL'S MOAN... HE KNEW
THERE WASN'T MUCH
TIME!

HE'S TAKING HIM
TO THE BUILDING WHERE
I THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHING...



THAT SMELL... IT'S ANES-
THETIC... I REMEMBER IT
FROM THE FIELD HOSPITAL
WHEN I GOT MY PURPLE
HEART!



I KNOW YOU'RE
DOWN THERE,
FRITZ! I'M
COMIN' DOWN!



HE'S HERE...
SOMEWHERE!



THEN, HILYARD HEARD HIM
AND HE TURNED, HIS FINGER
TIGHTENING ON THE
TRIGGER...

DO NOT KILL
ME, SIR! I AM UNARMED!



WHO ELSE
IS HERE?

I AM ALONE WITH THESE BADLY WOUNDED MEN! I WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO BE MOVED AND I REFUSED TO LEAVE THEM WHEN GENERAL DIETRICH ORDERED THE TROOPS TO WITHDRAW!

LISTEN, THERE'S A GERMAN WOMAN WHO'S ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY... **RIGHT NOW!** YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HER!

I CANNOT LEAVE THESE MEN, SERGEANT! SOMEONE HAS TO STAY WITH THEM!

DOC, I'LL STAY WITH THEM!... YOU GO TO THE WOMAN... SHE'S IN A HOUSE UP...

I SAW THE WOMAN EARLIER TODAY BEFORE THE FIGHTING BEGAN! I'LL FIND HER!

AN HOUR LATER...

A BABY GIRL, SERGEANT! THE MOTHER IS RESTING FINE... NOW, I WILL BANDAGE THAT HEAD WOUND...

THANKS, DOC...

YOU ARE A GOOD MAN... NOW, YOU'D BETTER LEAVE... I BELIEVE GENERAL DIETRICH WILL SEND MEN INTO THE TOWN AGAIN SOON!

SO SGT. HILYARD LEFT THE EMPTY TOWN... NOT AS QUIET NOW... A BABY'S CRY WAS HEARD THROUGH THE FOG... AND THE SERGEANT, IN THE MIDST OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, WAS SMILING!

END

the MARINE MARVEL

It was almost a little more than a year and a half after Pearl Harbor. Actually the Japs had smashed and defeated us. But they didn't know it at that time. And time was what we needed to get our economic machine geared to high war production. With planes and ships we could beat them back. We were now on the Mandam Islands. Four atolls in the Pacific Ocean. Only one of them was big and wide and even flat enough for our bombers and fighter planes to use as a base.

The Japs hadn't as yet decided about what plan they would use to smash us there. Because if they did the way was clear and wide open for them to hit our western coast-California, Washington, and Oregon. We had two carriers at that time. One in working condition and the other with a lot of make-shift repairs keeping it afloat and going. Add to that 9 cruiser, 14 destroyers and you had our fleet. No match for the six carriers, 9 battleships and a lot of other fighting ships the Japs had.

For the moment they kept out of range of the Mandam Islands. They didn't want to risk their valuable carriers against our land based planes. And then Admiral Hawley called a meeting of the Board of Strategy.

"Good to see you again, Major Simpson," was his greeting to me.

"Your marines are doing a good job. If the Japs decide to try to take these islands, I know your men can be counted on to hold them back."

"Admiral," I said, "One of my men had figured out a plan that can deal a crippling blow to the Japs. I vouch for him. He is Sergeant Frank Dello. I can have him here within 20 minutes if you give me the o. k." --

The Admiral hesitated and then smiled which was a good sign.

"If you vouch for him, then he must have something worth while listening to. Have him brought here."

And within 20 minutes, Sergeant Frank Dello was standing before all that brass and pointing to a map on the wall.

"This spot is the safety margin for the Japs. They know our planes can't fly beyond and return again. Not unless we want to sacrifice them. Someday we will have flying fuel planes to refuel our fighters and bombers in the air."

I have rigged up emergency gas tanks. Put

gas containers together and fitted them into a regular tank. That will double the range of our planes. We send out one ship as a decoy. The Japs will chase it. Then stop at the safety line. Our planes will go for their carriers. We should get at least one. With luck maybe two."

The Admiral insisted on looking at what the Sergeant had devised. He spoke to three of the flyers who had tried it out, flying around the atolls. Then he himself came to a decision.

"In war you take a calculated risk. This looks like one we can afford to take. Go ahead with the plan."

At that time we had no counter intelligence units working. We didn't even know that Admiral Yamamoto was headed in our direction.

And two days later the plan was put into action. Two of our cruisers and three destroyers left our port. They all had additional anti-aircraft on the decks ready in case a Jap plane made a bee line for any one of them. They kept in touch with us by special radio code. They sighted three Jap carriers and then turned back home. This was what we waited for. Eight of our fighter planes had been rigged up so as to carry two torpedoes each. They went out with 10 of our fighter bombers-medium ones.

Our timing was good. At sundown they spotted the Jap ships and went into action. The enemy was definitely puzzled. It looked to them like a suicide mission. All they had to do was to try to engage our planes in a fight and make us use up our valuable fuel. We outwitted them. The results blazed across the headlines the next day: We sank two Jap carriers; damaged one severely; sank two Jap cruisers; and one destroyer. We didn't mention our losses. Thirty per cent of our planes never made it back! But we did recover half of the crews at that.

There were awards of all kinds. Admiral Hawley gave Sergeant Frank Dello the highest award and I was authorized to promote him on the spot to be a first lieutenant. We had a sort of celebration dinner. The Admiral was curious.

"What kind of work do you do in civilian life? An engineer?"

"No," smiled the hero and new officer. "I am a florist."